

11 10 2015 Work Session 12 30 PM

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A. New Business

1. [12:30-12:45 PM Board Comments and Discussion](#)

Minutes:

Recess

Mr. Berryman asked if the Superintendent would be speaking about the Recess Committee. Superintendent LeRoy explained that issue was going to be discussed at a later time in the Work Session and referred him to the documentation in the folder provided to the Board Members.

Board Retreat

Mr. Mullenax discussed the upcoming Board Retreat. Some possible dates for the Retreat are:

- Wednesday, February 17
- Monday, February 22
- Wednesday, February 24
- Monday, February 29

The anticipated time frame for the Retreat will be all day, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm including breaks and lunch, unless the retreat runs over an extra day which is up for further discussion. This will not be determined until materials to be covered are agreed upon and an agenda created. There have been instances that the Board has participated for one and one half days for the Retreat. The location has not be designated at this time.

Mr. Berryman stated that because there is a School Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday,

February 23, his preference would be February 29.

Mr. Berryman, Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Fields, Mr. Mullenax, Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Sellers determined the date of the retreat should be February 29. Mr. Harris stated the last day of the month would not be his choice, but he will defer to the pleasure of the other Board Members.

Board Evaluations

Mr. Mullenax commented on upcoming evaluations of the Board. There are two different categories: 1) individual evaluation and 2) evaluation of the Board as a unit. He then asked the other Board Members for their individual preference.

Mrs. Sellers stated she would like the Board to be evaluated as a whole because that is how they function. Individual evaluations could be kept for self reflection. She also commented she would like to see some amended language on the form because she is uncomfortable using the terminology "always" because it does not leave room for exception. Different examples had been provided to the Board Members and Mrs. Sellers stated number 6 was the tool which held the most agreeable language.

Mrs. Fields asked what method has been used in the past. She would like to apply that method to this year as well. Mr. Mullenax stated the past evaluations have been on the Board as a whole.

Mrs. Cunningham referred to the previous Master Board training where the Board Members received the Alignment of Self Assessment Tool. She agreed the best practice would be to evaluate the Board as a whole. She is happy with the Evaluation Form that was used previously and the Board should continue on with what has been done in the past. Mr. Mullenax asked Mrs. Cunningham to share this form with JoAnne Clanton, Executive Assistant to the Board, so that it might be shared with all of the Board Members.

Mr. Mullenax explained that the specific instrument that will be used must be discussed now that it has been determined the Board should be evaluated as a whole unit. There is no specific timeline for this, but he would like to continue moving forward with it.

Mr. Berryman would like to revise the old evaluation tool and suggested the Board Retreat might be a good opportunity to do that.

Mr. Harris asked if the goal was to leave the evaluation tool as a paper document or if this would be an electronic document. Mr. Mullenax explained the intent is to try to make it an electronic document.

Operating Procedure Manuals

Operating Procedures Models for School Boards was discussed at the previous Master Board Training. Two examples were provided by the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) from Lee and Pinellas Counties for the Board to use as a basis for Polk to consider creating a model of their own.

B. Board Agenda Review

2. [12:45-1:00 PM Review the November 10, 2015 School Board Agenda as REVISED](#)

Attachment: [11 10 2015 School Board Mtg Agenda REVISED.pdf](#)

Minutes:

C-15: New Administrators

Mr. Harris stated that he would like a more comprehensive biography for the new administrators to be attached to eAgenda items for future meetings.

C-54--C-55: Demolition of Portables

Mrs. Sellers explained that although the Board will be voting to demolish these portables, there are groups that are interested in them for after school programs. These groups have their own means of moving the buildings. Mr. Rivers has agreed to save the two which are in the best condition until it has been determined if the buildings will meet the County code to be placed at the Highland City location. The organization has done this previously and know the hurdles that must be overcome. They are currently doing so in Eloise and go to great lengths to refurbish the portables for use.

Mr. Harris asked if once these facilities have been designated for demolition, does that remove that facility's ability to be reused somewhere else with power hook up and/or the ability to be occupied by another entity. He reflected on his time in the Facilities Department and buildings of this sort were deemed unsuitable to receive certificates of occupancy and could only be used as storage type buildings. This often prevented the donation of these buildings to entities for alternate usage.

Greg Rivers, Associate Superintendent of Facilities and Operations, stated this must be determined by the local County or City Building Department that is intended for the relocation. Once these facilities reach a specific age they do not come with a wind load certification and some jurisdictions require that before a building can be relocated and set up. He commented that he has discussed this precautionary measure with Mrs. Sellers for the portables in question.

Mrs. Sellers commented on recent Legislation that allows agricultural land to be inhabited by any sort of building. She asked if the School District has offered any of the portables to farmers housing Migrant farmworkers who are living in tents. Mr. Rivers commented in order to qualify the building must be for agricultural use on agricultural property.

Mr. Mullenax asked legal counsel at what point is the School Board exempt from liability for these facilities. Wes Bridges, Counsel for the Board, stated as long as a relocatable is

still sitting on our property we have the potential for liability. If we dispose of the property it is done by virtue of an instrument that transfers the title that states it is being taken "as is" and we have no further obligation for it and that would essentially absolve the liability.

C-57: Architectural and Engineering Services for Continuing Contract Services

Mr. Berryman commented that the name reflected on the document was incorrect. It was KCMH and should be SCMH. Mr. Rivers explained that this company has changed its name and KCMH is correct.

C-60: Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy--Resolution 2015/2016-05

Mr. Wilson asked for more background on this item. He asked if they were suggesting there might be some cost to the School District in the Future. Mr. Rivers stated it is a requirement that we participate. It states that if the District is the recipient of mitigation funding they will apply those funds to the mitigation costs.

Mr. Harris asked for clarity in the resolution regarding the "communities of the Board". Mr. Bridges stated he would access the document and would return an explanation to him. Also he asked for clarity in number three, "The agencies and organizations within Polk County will, upon receipt of such funding or other necessary resources, seek to implement the proposals contained in its section of the strategy." Mr. Rivers explained that all communities must participate in this and it simply means mitigation funds will be used strictly for mitigation strategies.

Mr. Wilson asked what the consequences would be if we do not sign this. Mr. Rivers explained this is a mandatory document from the State Division of Emergency Management for counties and municipalities to participate which was initiated by the Federal Mitigation Program. He was unsure what specific consequences we would suffer if we refused to sign it. Mr. Wilson commented that we would certainly lose funds, but wondered why a contract does not accompany the distribution of funds stating it will be used only for its intended purposes. He said a resolution in this instance seems to be an awkward way to conduct business.

Mr. Berryman asked if this could be voted on as part of the Consent Agenda since it contains a resolution. Mr. Bridges commented that it can be passed as such, however, resolutions are normally presented separately for adoption.

Mr. Mullenax asked if this was a time sensitive document. Mr. Rivers did not know.

Mr. Wilson suggested it be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Mullenax suggested it be pulled entirely and brought back as a regular item due to the uncertainty associated with the item. Mr. Wilson stated he felt confident that his questions had been answered and his only concern was this is an awkward way to do business and would be more effective if the requirements to be adhered to were sent with the money as opposed to receiving the equivalent of a blanket Purchase Order (PO) up front. He had no further issues that

were unresolved and had no problem moving it forward on the Consent Agenda.

The Board Members agreed that given Mr. Wilson's level of assurance that his questions were answered they could leave the item on the Consent Agenda.

C-67: Create Job Description for Senior Manager, Instructional Technology Program Implementation

Mr. Harris asked if this is the same as instructional television. The Superintendent responded that it is not. Mr. Harris stated his concern that this position is instructional in nature and has no requirement for an educational degree or requirement for previous experience in education. He commented it is a problem when individuals are occupying "instructional" titled positions but have never been an instructor.

Jacqueline Bowen, Chief Academic Officer, explained the job description was created with the assistance of Human Resources consultants. The position is a liaison between instruction and technology to help with the facilitation of major projects that are technology driven. This position will work directly with Ms. Bowen and Dr. Tina Barrios, Assistant Superintendent of Information Services and Technology, and will perform duties to liaise between vendors and educational administration for technology driven programming pieces to avoid using currently assigned Instructional Technology staff being diverted away from student data driven programs. She also explained the hope is that a candidate will be selected that has an education background, but they must also have the experience with the implementation piece. Mr. Harris stated a designated number of teaching years experience should have been a requirement for this position.

Mrs. Sellers stated finding a candidate with the required level of instructional technology experience with an educational background may be difficult.

Mrs. Cunningham stated it is more critical to find a candidate that can satisfy the technological background who can learn the instructional interface rather than the other way around. She would like to see the requirements left as is in order to keep the field open to allow individuals without an educational background to apply.

Mr. Harris commented the job description needed to be reworded to be grammatically correct to read "specialization in education." Ms. Bowen said she would have that corrected. Human Resources Staff will correct the wording and send back to the Superintendent's Office to be added to the Agenda prior to the vote at the Board Meeting.

C-69: Florida Educational Equity Act Annual Update 2014-2015

Mr. Wilson asked if this item was being approved because it is an annual report to be filed with the State. Superintendent LeRoy commented that it is but that it has to be approved prior to submission.

C-72: 2015-2016 Class Size Flexibility

Mr. Berryman asked for a brief update on where the District is in regard to Class Size Compliance and asked for our final student count. The Superintendent commented that we are waiting on information that will be received from the State of Florida. She asked Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer, to speak to this topic. He did not have the exact number but will research that and return that information. His estimation at this point will be an increase of approximately 1,000.

R-74: Recommendation to Name New School Citrus Ridge

Mr. Harris stated he continues to be concerned with the currently nominated name containing the word Ridge in the title. There are already several other schools in that part of the county with this name in their title. He said other community members share his concerns and that is due in part to safety related issues, such as 911 calls. He said there should be some policy driven parameters in place to address naming conventions. He would like the committee to reconvene and consider additional names that do not share a common name for this school.

Mrs. Cunningham stated going forward she agrees that this idea has merit; however, this would be changing the game at the eleventh hour and would be disingenuous to the committee of thirty as well as internet responses that were collected. She would like to see the vote go forward as indicated.

Mrs. Fields agreed making a change at this stage would show disregard for the time and effort invested by the volunteers, community and staff to create the name Citrus Ridge and it should move forward as is. She asked when the policy was last revised and commented that this is an area which should be reviewed.

Mrs. Sellers shared the opinion that the name should move forward as is, and reflected that the previously nominated name was Citrus Ridge Community which would have been in conflict very closely with Ridge Community High School.

Mr. Harris also commented the name is incomplete. There must be a descriptive such as elementary, academy, school, etc. Mrs. Cunningham stated the name is Citrus Ridge: A Civics Academy. Mr. Harris commented that is not the way it reads on the Agenda. Mr. Mullenax asked this be corrected before the vote at today's Board Meeting.

Mr. Harris asked when the policy regarding issues such as these deficiencies could be addressed.

Mrs. Fields stated she agreed the policies should be addressed but that it is important to bring all facets of this issue forward so that the Board does not have to continually bring this issue back for policy amendment.

Mr. Mullenax asked Mr. Bridges to begin the process to address this issue. Mr. Bridges added the naming policy is second only to the approved use policy in the frequency the content is amended.

Public Comments Addressing Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Mullenax commented that a large crowd was anticipated at the evening's Board Meeting. He instructed the other Board Members to take some time to read the information sent to them covering the guidelines that were provided by the legal office.

Mrs. Cunningham stated she had read the guidelines for handling such situations, however, many of the people who may attend the Board Meeting are traveling a great distance to speak and be heard. Consideration should be given and regardless of how many are speaking on the same subject, they should be afforded that opportunity out of respect because of the time and effort they have put forth. She added it is important to make clear to the individuals that there is a process to address the concerns they will be sharing.

Mrs. Fields commented she felt the Board should have information to address these concerns regarding progress that has been made and our district in comparison with other districts in the areas concerned.

Mr. Berryman commented that he felt the people should be given an opportunity to speak but that there must be with some decorum.

3. [1:00-1:15 PM BREAK](#)

Minutes:

Superintendent LeRoy discussed several items that were not on the Work Session Agenda.

Recess Committee

The Board Members were given documentation to support the update on the Recess Committee including statistics, members, and timeline that have occurred since the Community Meeting at Highlands Grove on this topic. The meetings will be held Thursday, November 12, 5:00-6:30 pm and Tuesday, November 17 at the Jim Miles Professional Development Center. Debbie Henderson, Regional Assistant Superintendent, and Michelle Townley, Senior Director of K-12 Reading and Writing, will serve as co-chairs facilitating the work of the committee.

Some topics to be addressed at the meeting are:

- Recess Overview
- Recess Guidelines Discussion
- Suggestions for Playground Supervision
- Techniques to Maintain Safe Behavior
- Sample Age Appropriate Activities for Recess

Individuals from varied professional backgrounds including the medical field, education, and athletics, as well as parents will be participating in the meeting. Recommendations will be returned to the Superintendent on November 30, which will then be brought before the Board.

Legislative Delegation Meeting

Superintendent LeRoy spoke on Monday, November 9, before the Legislative Delegation. Supporting documentation for this meeting including her presentation were provided to the Board Members. She was joined at that meeting by Wendy Dodge, Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy, and Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer. Their suggestions and recommendations of needs were well received. A great deal of support was received around equalization of capital dollars as well as early childhood needs. The next step will be individual meetings with individual legislators to discuss priorities.

Mr. Berryman commented on the fine presentation the Superintendent gave before the Legislative Delegation and on the Summit that the County Commission initiated regarding school growth as well as the positive public relations opportunity that it generated. He stated this would be a good step toward helping the Sales Tax Committee as far as background information.

4. [1:15-1:45 PM Executive Session](#)

C. Information

Item 5

5. [Financial Statements for Period Ending September 30, 2015](#)

Attachment: [Sep 2015 Financial Package.pdf](#)

Item 6

6. [2015-2016 Annual Master Inservice Plan](#)

Attachment: [Master Inservice Plan 2015.2016.pdf](#)

Attachment: [MIP Master List..pdf](#)

Attachment: [Master Inservice Plan Component Preparation Template April 2014.pdf](#)

Item 7

7. [Quarterly Report-Bid Recommendations Approved by the Superintendent](#)

Attachment: [Quarterly Report-Approved Bid Recommendations-9-30-15.pdf](#)

D. Discussion

Item 8

8. [1:45-2:00 PM Proposed Policy Updates](#)

Attachment: [Staff Policy Recs Summary.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Neola Policy Updates Summary.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Proposed Policy Updates.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Wendy Dodge, Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy, discussed the proposed policy updates being brought before the Board. Two documents were provided to the Board Members regarding these changes.

The first document reflects four policy recommendations made by District Staff:

- Magnet/Choice policy changing the title of the department.
- Changes to enrollment dates, hard dates that required modification.
- Construction contracting
- School Construction policies reflecting the Resolution giving the Superintendent more contract authority.

The second document reflects policy recommendations from Northeast Ohio Learning Associates (NEOLA). These changes are either State Statutory Changes, Regulatory Rule Changes, or Office of Civil Rights (OCR) mandates.

This is the second of a three-part policy recommendation series. The hope is that the third and final set will be accomplished at the December School Board Work Session, with finalized voting at the December School Board Meeting.

Mr. Berryman commented on the section regarding confidential records/confidentiality policies with reference to Social Security Numbers (SSN). It was his understanding that these were no longer going to be used for Student Identification Numbers. Ms. Dodge explained legislation prohibits the use of or requirement to reveal the SSN. Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is developing a new student number identification system that, once approved, will mandate the use of this number. Currently, the District uses a combination of Countywide and SSN.

Item 9

9. [2:00-2:15 PM Redistricting](#)

Attachment: [Redistricting Update for Board - October 15 2015.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Polk Co Presentation 20151009.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Greg Rivers, Associate Superintendent of Facilities and Operations, addressed

some potential criteria and guidelines the redistricting consulting company, DeJong Richter, will use. One of the possible affects surrounds suggested elimination of portables which would cause overcrowding main campuses.

Mr. Mullenax stated the redistricting should be divided into phases. Phase One should be done internally and remain confined to small geographic area. He said he has experienced similar changes in the past and sometimes when forced to draw these lines, proper consideration is not given to the demographic of the area including economic issues. You can change the entire academic achievement record of a school if redistricting is not applied properly. Often times students have to drive by one school to get to the school they have been redistricted for and he is opposed to that.

Mrs. Sellers asked if Phase One must be accomplished by a consultant in the interest of continuity. She commented the School Board does not want these students to be redistricted by the District and then again by the consultants because it is not fair to the students.

Mrs. Cunningham agreed with these concerns regarding professionalism and continuity.

Scott Leopoldt, representative for the consulting firm DeJong & Richter, explained the process, as it is laid out, would focus on a community steering committee and the consultants will be available to lend their expertise when needed.

Mr. Berryman commented the consulting firm should be responsible for Phase 1 and Phase 2 in the interest of continuity. He asked what additional costs would be incurred.

Mr. Rivers stated the additional pieces of the redistricting project have been proposed to the consulting firm and the final cost is dependent on what the Board decides at the Work Session, therefore there is no revised monetary proposal at this time.

Mr. Mullenax commented on his concerns associated with the extra monetary expenditure that would be experienced if we increased the workload of the consultants. He also commented it is no indication of his lack of confidence in the capability of the consulting firm.

Mr. Harris referred to the list of criteria/guidelines that was provided. He asked if those items are listed in order of importance. Mr. Rivers explained these items were not ranked, but were merely a list to be added to or pulled from. Also he stated the Board should pick from the list provided to determine areas of primary importance as well as the steering committee.

Mr. Berryman commented in regard to the formation of the steering committee, due to the large population of Hispanic families in that area, it is important the Hispanic community is adequately represented.

Mrs. Cunningham stated the naming committee was composed of a very diverse group of individuals that represented the northeast section of the county well. She will provide the list of names so they might be reviewed as potential steering committee members.

Mr. Mullenax commented Ms. Wanda Aponte, Principal of Loughman Oaks Elementary, may be a good recommendation to be a participant on the steering committee. She has a unique perspective in both her heritage and personal knowledge of the area of the county she works in.

Mrs. Fields asked for clarification on the criteria regarding the attempt to maintain diverse student populations. She also stated it is important to look at what other districts have experienced when diversification is overlooked. Mr. Leopoldt explained this eludes to Mr. Mullenax's earlier comment that the zone should reflect the school district as a whole. He also elaborated on the importance of avoiding schools that are vastly different from a socio-economic perspective and to have a baseline established to reflect demographic objectivity.

Mr. Leopoldt commented on how important the criteria is to remain objective and remove the politics and emotion from the process. If not properly moderated, the steering committee meetings become a "don't move my kid, move their kid." Therefore, it is imperative to adhere to the established baseline criteria and identify how each option relates to the individual areas.

Mr. Rivers explained there is still time to consider the criteria for the overall redistricting. An abbreviated list of criteria for the K-8 can be sent out and then specific questions for the redistricting can be addressed at a future work session.

Mr. Harris asked where recommendations should be sent. The Superintendent stated recommendations should be sent to Mr. Rivers.

Item 10

10. [2:15-2:30 PM Revision of Salary Schedule Guidelines for Non-Union Employees and District/School-Based Administrators](#)

Attachment: [Revision of Salary Schedule Guidelines 11-10-15WS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Brian Warren, Acting Senior Director of Human Resource Services, explained the revisions to the salary administration guidelines as it relates to promotions. The revisions provide a process for the salary review of an employee whose promotion consists of an increase of two or more salary grades. It allows the amount of previous work experience to be reviewed as related to direct participation of job duties and activities required in the new position. The updated promotion language was refined in an effort to provide all credit possible as well as to be remain competitive.

The second piece to the revision concerns bonuses and performance based salary adjustments for school based and district office administrators. The new language provides flexibility for the value of bonuses based on various factors and provides latitude for annual budgetary considerations.

Superintendent LeRoy explained the School District is required to move to performance based pay for all administrators. The existing structure was limited and only gave one or two amounts and this will allow for an expanded approach. Performance pay has been expanded and is no longer as restrictive as the previous model. There are plans to use the Value Added Model (VAM) to tier schools.

Mr. Berryman asked when this would be payable since we have not received the data. Mrs. Leroy explained that the data required has already been received for this year and they are hoping to implement these changes this year in an effort to incentivize the administrators.

Item 11

11. [2:30 - 2:45 PM 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant](#)

Attachment: [21st Century Community Learning Grant Update.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2015 Summative Evaluation Report-Polk \(revised\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [2015 Summative Evaluation Report-Polk \(exec summary\)-revised.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Jacqueline Bowen, Chief Academic Officer, discussed the 21st Century Grant. This is currently at four Title I schools. Donna Nicolodi is the designated point of contact regarding management and day to day support of this grant. The original award was in 2013-2014 for two schools (Loughman Oaks Elementary and Polk City Elementary) to support their after school programs. Loughman Oaks currently has 160 students participating. This year 2 additional locations have been added (Lewis Anna Woodbury Elementary and Garner Elementary) averaging seventy to ninety students in their programs. The District partners with Learning Resource Center (LRC) and C Palms project-based learning for these programs and hosts programs consisting of academic based instruction in combination with extra curricular, social-emotional character education and enrichment activities. Some of the programs being implemented at these locations are: sign language and soccer camp. This is a three year continuation grant and may give the District an opportunity to expand to more schools. Parent Involvement initial meeting nights have been accomplished and a second round of those are upcoming.

Mr. Harris stated when the District received this grant previously, many dollars were used to purchase physical items at the schools. He asked for more information on the use of this particular grant. Ms. Bowen explained the

structures have been changed and now limitations have been applied as to where funds can be expended. The first grant that was drafted was much heavier in personnel based expenses and not as heavy in direct, additional support at the schools.

Ms. Fields asked for some updates on the academic success of the program. Ms. Bowen explained that previous program structures were too closely aligned with the content of the school day. The current program structure is designed to incentivize students to continue participating in the program and academic resources are being used that are inline with the curriculum taught during the day but do not mirror what the students have been exposed to during the school day and the enrichment pieces have been added for support. Parent and student surveys indicated more project-based learning and content not as closely reflective of the school day. After-school tutoring components have been added as part of the rotation process. LRC is gathering performance data accumulation three times a year per student

Ms. Fields stated this programs is intended to enhance academic learning and increase social skills. Ms. Bowen commented it is very much a prevention tool. The program needs tweaking, but there are instances that show the program is very robust and successful. Loughman Oaks has more students than they can support.

Item 12

[12. 2:45-2:55 PM Project Applications for Title I Programs \(Part A – Basic, Part C, & Part D\) for 2015-16](#)

- Attachment: [Title I Schools by Type 2015-16 updated 10.29.15.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [7-1-14to6-30-15PolkESPSalaries4-28-15Bd.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Visio-Chart 11 Teaching and Learning Federal Programs SY16 Rev WS 11.10.15 BM 12.08.15.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Sch Bd Summary TT1 Projects 11.10.15 ml.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [BIA-Title I, Part A 2015-16.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [BIA-Title I, Part D 2015-16.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [7-1-14to6-30-15PolkTeacherSalary4-28-15Bd.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Visio-Chart 11 Teaching and Learning Federal Programs SY16 Rev WS 11.10.15 BM 12.08.15.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [BIA-Title I, Part C 2015-16.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Title I Paid Personnel 2015-16.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [7-1-14to6-30-15PolkParaSalaries4-28-15Bd.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Chart 27 Human Resource Services SY16 Original WS 07.28.15Rev 7.26.15pd BM 08.11.15.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Nonunion AdminSalRanges2014for4.15.15.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Job Desc - Prin on Assignment for Sch Improvement 9971.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Job Description-Homeless Advocate 10018.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [DJJ2 - Blue Sheet.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Maria Longa, Director of Federal Programs and Grants Management, discussed three Title I projects the District receives.

Title I Part A is the largest and is based on economically disadvantaged students with the purpose of closing the achievement gap and supporting schools that have a high concentration poverty. All previous major initiatives continue:

- staff development and building capacity of teachers and administrators
- additional educational resources for students (such as intervention teachers and para-educators)
- coaching support for teachers
- parent involvement initiatives, parent resource information centers, and parent universities
- support of homeless students, neglected and delinquent students
- private school participating students (students who attend a private school but are zoned for a Title I school)

There are two changes for this project. The first is an addition of a Homeless Advocate position. The number of homeless students in our district has increased by approximately 38% which will allow better service for those students. The second position is a Principal on Assignment. This initiative has changed and alters the previously accepted position because coding changes the information in the project application. They now provide Staff Development support for administrators.

The purpose of the Title I Part C Migrant Education Project is also to close the achievement gap and increase support of students who have additional needs for their education because of their migratory life style. The major initiatives in this program remain unchanged, such as: additional education sources primarily through para-educators at the school sites, and migrant advocates (teachers which provide additional services, educational interventions and after school programs). There is also a continuing contract with Learning Resource Center (LRC) for the after school programs.

Title I Part D is the Neglected and Delinquent Project which is also unchanged. The major initiative of this grant is to provide additional and supplemental educational services for students who are enrolled in neglected and delinquent sites.

Mrs. Cunningham asked how many Polk County Schools fall into these categories. Dr. Longa gave a breakdown of these numbers. Title I Part C (Migrant Project) is difficult to track because at any given time these students may re-enroll at a different Polk County School. There are eighty-three school sites under Title I Part A.

Jacqueline Bowen, Chief Academic Officer, explained the schools have increased by one since last year because Mulberry High School has been added. The Reaching Every Adolescent Learner (REAL) Academy also replaced ESE Countywide on the list.

Mr. Mullenax asked for clarification on the number of homeless students. Dr. Longa commented the number increased 30% since 2013 school year. He asked if this number was so extensive because those students were not located before. Ms. Bowen explained that this number fluctuates and recent economic crises have caused this to rise. Homelessness also has a very broad definition. She added the District will look at trends at various times of the year to see if there is a pattern.

Dr. Longa said staff members at the school level are being educated on how to identify characteristics of homelessness.

Mr. Berryman would like the definition of homeless to be brought before the Board at a future Work Session.

E. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 8th day of December 2015.

Kay Fields, Board Chair

Kathryn M. LeRoy, Superintendent